# City of Lafayette Staff Report

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| **For:** | City Council |
| **By:** | Ann Merideth, Community Development Director |
| **Date Written:** | May 18, 2009 |
| **Meeting Date:** | May 26, 2009 |
| **Subject:** | Letter of Commitment as a participating jurisdiction in ABAG's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan |

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## Summary

In 2004, the City Council joined with ABAG and other Bay Area cities and counties to prepare a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as required by FEMA. Participation in a Plan is required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 as a condition of receiving mitigation grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal and state agencies. This program does not affect a local agency's ability to receive FEMA funds in the event of a disaster. Virtually every city and county in the Bay Area did participate in the original Plan.

The 5-year update of the Plan is now underway. Participation commitment in the update is now being sought by ABAG, California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) and FEMA. Joining this regional effort will also meet 2007 State legislation that waives the 6.25% requirement for Public Assistance damage reimbursement for participating jurisdictions in the event of a disaster.

## Recommendation

Authorize the City Manager to send the Letter of Commitment as a participation jurisdiction in the ABAG Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to ABAG and CalEMA.

# PARTICIPATING JURISDICTION LETTERHEAD

**[date]**

Henry Gardner
Executive Director
Association of Bay Area Governments
P.O. Box 2050
Oakland, CA, 94604

Re: Letter of Commitment as participating jurisdiction in [Lead Jurisdiction] Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning

Dear Mr. Gardner,

As the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Local Mitigation Plan requirements under 44 CFR §201.6 specifically identify criteria that allow for multi-jurisdictional mitigation plans and that many issues are better resolved by evaluating hazards more comprehensively by coordinating at the county, regional, or watershed level, the [participating jurisdiction] is submitting this letter of commitment to confirm that [participating jurisdiction] has agreed to participate in the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning.

Further, as a condition to participating in the mitigation planning; [participating jurisdiction] agrees to meet the requirements for mitigation plans identified in 44 CFR §201.6 and to provide such cooperation as is necessary and in a timely manner to ABAG to complete the plan in conformance with FEMA requirements.

[Participating jurisdiction] understands that it must engage in the following planning process, as more fully described in FEMA's *Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance* dated July 1, 2008, including, but not limited to:

- Identification of hazards unique to the jurisdiction and not addressed in the master planning document;
- The conduct of a vulnerability analysis and an identification of risks, where they differ from the general planning area;
- The formulation of mitigation goals responsive to public input and development of mitigation actions complementary to those goals. A range of actions must be identified specific for each jurisdiction;
- Demonstration that there has been proactively offered an opportunity for participation in the planning process by all community stakeholders (examples of participation include relevant involvement in any planning process, attending meetings, contributing research, data, or other information, commenting on drafts of the plan, etc.); and
- Documentation of an effective process to maintain and implement the plan; and,
- Formal adoption of the Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan by the jurisdiction's governing body (each jurisdiction must officially adopt the plan).

Therefore, with a full understanding of the obligations incurred by participating in the FEMA hazard mitigation planning process as a participant in a multi-jurisdictional plan; I (Name of authorized jurisdiction official) , commit (name of jurisdiction) to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning effort.

Executed this ___ day of _____

Jurisdiction official's signature